Claims

1. Use of a selected form of dietary protein which increases protein concentration or rate of protein synthesis in a selected organ as a protein source in the preparation of a nutritional formula for promoting the growth or recovery of the specific organ in a mammal.

2. Use according to claim 1 in which the dietary protein is a protein hydrolysate having a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 30% for the preparation of a nutritional formula for increasing protein concentration and synthesis in the small intestine.

3. Use according to claim 2 in which the dietary protein is used in the preparation of a nutritional formula for increasing protein concentration and synthesis in the duodenum.

4 Use according to claim 2 or claim 3 in which the protein hydrolysate comprises more than about 30% by weight of di- and tri-peptides and has a non protein nitrogen concentration of at least about 85% of total nitrogen.

5. Use according to claim 1 in which the dietary protein is (i) a protein hydrolysate having a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 15%; (ii) free amino acids; or (iii) mixtures thereof, for the preparation of a nutritional formula for increasing protein concentration and synthesis in the jejunum.

6. Use according to claim 5 in which the dietary protein is a protein hydrolysate which comprises more than about 20% by weight of di- and tri-peptides and which has a non protein nitrogen concentration of at least about 60% of total nitrogen.

7. Use according to claim 1 in which the dietary protein is in the form of free amino acids for the preparation of a nutritional formula for maintaining muscle protein synthesis and for the prophylaxis or treatment of muscular atrophy.

8. Use according to claim 7 in which the dietary protein is used in the preparation of a nutritional formula for mammals having compromised gut function.

9. Use according to claim 1 in which the dietary protein is a protein hydrolysate for the preparation of a nutritional formula for increasing protein concentration and synthesis in underdeveloped intestines of premature babies.

10. Use according to claim 9 in which the protein hydrolysate comprises more than about 30% by weight of di- and tri-peptides and has a non protein nitrogen concentration of at least about 85% of total nitrogen.